

REMARKS

The abstract has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Please make of record the verified English translation of the priority Japanese application in the Appendix.

The claims were rejected as anticipated by, or unpatentable over, FREELAND et al. US 2003/0028380. The present application claims priority to Japanese application 2001-000667 filed January 5, 2001. The claim to priority has been perfected by filing herewith a verified English translation of this Japanese application. FREELAND et al. is a continuation of PCT/AU01/00111 filed on February 2, 2001. A reference that is a continuation of an international application filed on or after November 29, 2000, designating the U.S. and published in English, has the §102(e)(1) and (2) prior art date of the international filing date, namely February 2, 2001. Since the priority Japanese application was filed on January 5, 2001, which is before the §102(e) prior art date of FREELAND et al., FREELAND et al. is not available as prior art in the present application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

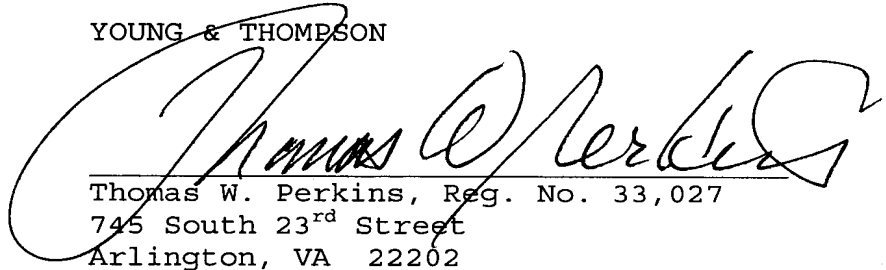
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been

placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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TWP/lrs

APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following items:

- a verified English translation of the priority Japanese application
- amended Abstract of the Disclosure